

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W
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R 021430Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3719

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MR MO SS AG

SUBJECT: GIRM POLICY RE SPANISH SAHARA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 2036

1. GOVERNMENT'S NEWSHEET, NOUAKCHOTT INFORMATION, CARRIED REPORT OF APRIL 28 PRESS CONFERENCE IN LOME GIVEN BY PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH BEFORE HIS RETURN FROM STATE VISIT TO TOGO. PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE REAFFIRMED THAT SPANISH SAHARA " USED TO BELONG, BY HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY, TO MAURITANIA WHICH, HOWEVER, NO LONGER CLAIMS, AS IT LOGICALLY DID IN THE BEGINNING, THE PURE AND SIMPLE INTEGRATION (INTO MAURITANIA) OF SPANISH SAHARA. SINCE WE HAVE NORMALIZED OUR RELATIONS WITH OUR BROTHER MOROCCO, WE ARE ENGAGED WITH IT IN AN IMPORTANT EFFORT TO DECOLONIZE THIS TERRITORY."

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ARTICLE DOES NOT DIRECTLY QUOTE PRESIDENT, IT HAS BEEN EMBASSY'S EXPERIENCE THAT SUCH
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REPORTING IS WORD FOR WORD REPETITION OF PRESIDENT'S

REMAKRS. IF ARTICLE ACCURATELY REFLECTS PRESIDENT'S WORDS, IT REPRESENTS SHIFT IN EMPHASIS FROM PREVIOUSLY STATED POLICY REPORTED PARA 3 OF REFTL IN THAT IT: (A) IMPLICITLY ACCEPTS MOROCCAN CLAIM TO SPANISH SAHARA WITHOUT ABANDONING GIRM'S OWN CLAIM, AND (B) MAKES NO REFERENCE TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR POPULATION OF TERRIROT. END COMMENT

3. JOINT MAURITANIAN-TOGOLESE COMMUNIQUE SIGNED AT END OF OULD DADDAH'S OFFICIAL VISIT CONTRASTS WITH PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON SPANISH SAHARA. TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN SAME ISSUE OF NOUAKCHOTT INFORMATION, STATED THAT THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE "INSIST THERE BE RAPID AND AUTHENTIC DECOLONIZATION (OF SPANISH SAHARA) IN SPIRIT DESIRED BY MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA AND CONFORMING WITH PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS OF UN AND OAU".

4. COMMENT: MAURITANIA IS CAREFUL TO INCLUDE MOROCCO AS A CO-SPONSOR OF DECOLONIZATION. THROUGH REFERENCE TO "PERTINENT UN AND OAU RESOLUTIONS"; HOWEVER, GIRM INDIRECTLY REAFFIRMS PREVIOUSLY HELD POLICY THAT POPULATION OF SPANISH SAHARA MUST BE ALLOWED SELF-DETERMINATION. JUXTAPOSITION OF THESE TWO STATEMENTS MAY BE COINCIDENTAL. BUT IT MORE PROBABLY REPRESENTS GIRM'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO BALANCE SPANISH SAHARA POLICY BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. ON ONE HAND, GIRM STRESSED MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN COOPERATIVE POLICY TOWARD THE TERRIROT AND, ON THE OTHER, NEED TO FOLLOW EDICTS OF UN AND OAU RESOLUTIONS. HANDYSIDE

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